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Latin America Report

(FOUO 11/82)

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CARIBBEAN STATES WITH UK TIES SEEK REGIONAL DEFENSE

PMO41539 London THE NEW STATESMAN in English 4 Jun 82 p 13

[Greg Chamberlain report: "After the Falklands--the Caribbean"]

[Text] The billion pound Falklands spectacle is provoking cries from some of Britain's former colonies that Mrs Thatcher isn't giving them a fair whack of her neo-imperial defence budget. Their sense of fair play was particularly wounded when the destroyer normally stationed off Belize was sent off to the South Atlantic at the beginning of the Falklands dispute.

Antigua-Barbuda's bear-like deputy premier and effective ruler, Lester Bird, came to London last week to urge Thatcher to follow up her stand against "Argentina's madness" by helping the Commonwealth Caribbean to set up a strong regional force to defend itself against "military adventurism" by neighbouring states with similar territorial claims.

Bird accused Britain of "weakening the strength of democracy and elected government, by slashing aid to its former possessions. "This is not the spirit of a country that has put its foot down to the Argentines" he said, and warned that the penniless Caribbean would have to "turn elsewhere if it didn't get support from Britain."

In the region, Guyana and Belize live in the shadow of territorial claims by Venezuela and Guatemala. Partly for this reason, most of their Anglo-Caribbean colleagues have backed Thatcher's action over the Falklands. This was further threatened the unity of the Organisation of American States, whose founding Latin members have long resented the new English-speaking mini-states.

But Bird and fellow conservative Caribbean leaders are also worried by what they see as the threat of left-wing "subversion" from Cuba and its regional allies like Grenada. They hope that Thatcher's new awareness of the problems of small islands will lead her to share this fear.

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

FURTHER REVELATIONS ON FALKLANDS OPERATION

PY241625 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1330 GMT 24 Jun 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jun (DYN)--According to a military source, within the army, only the commander in chief of the army, former President Leopoldo Galtieri, and probably Gen Jose Vaquero, chief of the joint staff, and the heads of the units involved in the operation, knew before-hand about the Argentine landing in the Malvinas Islands on 2 April.

According to the high-ranking military source, most of the major generals and President Galtieri's cabinet only learned about Argentina's military occupation of the islands on the day it was carried out.

Several members of the high command voiced their disagreement to Galtieri when the latter told them about the operation, and Gen Edgardo Calvi even told him that the corps would have liked to be given the chance to express its opinion, "although later you can make a decision you may find more appropriate," he added.

In view of this lack of participation in the decision to recover the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, it has not been possible to learn of the political and military assessments made before the operation.

The source added that among the many mistakes made was that of mistakenly estimating the "position which the United States would adopt, the real war power of Great Britain and the possible British reaction before the Argentine military action."

He added that "an evaluation of the country's economic situation was not done in order to try and solve it, and Minister Alemann only learned of the operation on 2 April, and the same thing happened to the rest of the ministerial cabinet."

Apparently the same procedure was followed in the air force, since the major generals were reportedly notified on the Malvinas operation only 4 days before the islands were taken.

The sources agree that before the operation "there were no more than 10 persons in charge of everything by order of the military junta."

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It was also said that the Foreign Ministry made "an erroneous estimation on the position which Great Britain would take."

The operation to recover the archipelago in the South Atlantic had been planned for June or July of this year, but the episode in the South Georgia Islands involving Argentine workers who raised the Argentine flag there and the resultant repression by British soldiers forced the San Martin Palace to state before the military junta that "it will be very difficult to find another excuse such as this to react and begin the recovery of the Malvinas."

Consequently, the operation was advanced to 2 April, according to the same sources.

The political objective sought by the military junta through the direct action of the Argentine troops was "to activate negotiations with Great Britain, whose government no longer bothered to answer notes presented by Argentina to demand sovereignty over the islands."

But this objective was forcibly changed when Great Britain sent two-thirds of its fleet and "everything became more complicated when the United States took sides with Great Britain and helped it in the war," the sources concluded.

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

NICOLAIDES FAVORS 'FULL ENFORCEMENT' OF RESOLUTION 502

PY071606 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1126 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (DYN)--According to military sources, the Military Committee will hold a meeting this afternoon at 1700 at the joint staff headquarters. During the meeting the Military Committee will discuss issues pertaining to the papal mediation on the Beagle Channel dispute and the consequences of the Malvinas Islands war.

The meeting will be attended by Gen Cristino Nicolaides, Adm Jorge Anaya, Gen Basilio Lami Dozo, President Reynaldo Bignone and the joint staff chief.

During the meeting, the Military Committee will also discuss the institutional situation and some ideas aimed at achieving cohesion within the armed forces since the navy and the air force have decided to withdraw from conducting political aspects of the government.

Yesterday Bignone said that he is "optimistic" about achieving a reconciliation and noted that an agreement has been achieved with the navy and air force commanders to allow those officers who hold political posts to continue in their posts.

The sources said that in addition to these subjects, the Military Committee will discuss the papal mediation on the Beagle Channel and those instructions that it will impart to the chief of the Argentine delegation to the mediation, Carlos Ortiz de Rozas, who is currently in Buenos Aires.

Yesterday Ortiz de Rozas gave an extensive briefing to the armed forces commanders on the negotiations that are being carried out in the Vatican.

Another issue in the agenda is the situation of Argentine officers who are being held prisoner by Great Britain as a result of the military actions in Puerto Argentino, in the Malvinas, and the negotiations and position that will be adopted by the Argentine Government to achieve the liberation of these military officers.

Lt Gen Nicolaides discussed this issue during a meeting he held yesterday evening from 1900 to 2000 at the Libertador building with the prisoners' relatives.

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During this meeting, Nicolaides reportedly noted that the present diplomatic position of the Argentine military government "is to comply with the full enforcement of UN Resolution 502, particularly regarding those articles that concern the cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of both Argentine and British troops."

Some relatives of those who are held prisoner had reportedly expressed concern over the initiative of some army officers--who were not identified--to confiscate all enterprises with British capital in Argentina with the objective of achieving the release of Argentine prisoners.

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATION PROPOSAL

PY081543 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1410 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jul (DYN)--An Argentine diplomatic mission made up of high-ranking officials left for Brazil today. It will also visit Venezuela and Mexico to "channel" a Mexican proposal regarding the resumption of negotiations over the Malvinas Islands within the framework of the UN.

The delegation is made up of Ambassador Arnoldo Listre, the Argentine ad interim representative to the UN, who has recently been designated as policy director general, and Raul Quijano, the chief of the permanent Argentine mission to the OAS.

Listre and Quijano left for Sao Paulo on board a plane that took off at 0800 (1100 GMT), and they will also visit Caracas and Mexico.

Quijano and Listre will hold talks with the foreign ministers of Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico regarding the Mexican proposal on the Malvinas.

The Mexican proposal is designed to have the UN call on the parties to urgently resume negotiations over the Malvinas.

Reliable diplomatic sources have said that Argentina is about to start an intense diplomatic campaign looking toward the upcoming UN assembly.

To this effect, Listre will presumably travel to New York after concluding the above-mentioned mission in the three Latin American countries, and he will remain there until the end of July.

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

ECONOMIST RAUL PREBISH ON OUTCOME OF CRISIS

PY172012 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1410 GMT 15 Jun 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun (DYN)--Argentine economist Raul Prebisch today was pessimistic over the final outcome of the crisis in the South Atlantic. He said that this crisis will have a decisive influence on the future of Latin America.

Talking to Radio Mitre in the capital, Prebisch, the founder of CEPAL (Economic Commission for Latin America), said: "I am feeling deep sorrow because I never expected things to turn out the way they did.

"I believe this will have a deep influence on all of Latin America. This is already evident, but it will be enhanced as time goes by," Prebisch added.

"This is a new game of cards," Prebisch said, "of international cards, and Argentina must wake up to this reality. It must not believe that it is a member of the developed world simply because it belongs to the white race, but because it has things in common with those countries.

"We form part of the Third World; this is being made plausible by the events that are taking place," Prebisch noted. To a question he replied: "I have never agreed with those who believe that Argentina is a part of the Western world.

"I have been struggling in favor of the Third World for many years, and I believe that our country constitutes part of it. This is so even though it differs basically from some of those countries, but it has many things in common with them which are of major importance," Prebisch noted.

To another question Prebisch replied that the Third World "has many ideologies, but this is not a problem of ideologies but of facts, of level of development, of subordination to the larger countries. We all share the same problems of international trade, financing, periodic deterioration in the relationship of exchange prices, and now we have the problem of the debt."

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Prebisch also said that "Argentina has always paid its debts. I recall that during the worldwide depression, Argentina paid its debt despite the major difficulties it faced at that time. I hope that the present situation will allow us to pay our debt again. But the loans which form part of the debt are not in keeping with economic development and with the present status of exports. It is necessary to renegotiate the debt [conversion de la deuda].

Prebisch said that the so-called "economic liberalism" ended before the recovery of the Malvinas Islands on 2 April 1982. Prebisch noted: "I believe that there was no such thing as economic liberalism, but an opening toward a world which is closing in on itself ever more. And now, under this situation, that same government which called itself inspired in liberalism has been forced by circumstances to take measures to drastically reduce imports."

Prebisch concluded: "To consolidate its growth in the past, Argentina was in need of an open and liberal British society, which admitted Argentine exports without obstacles, and with which low-interest loans could be negotiated. However, this is a bygone subject now."

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COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

MASSERA COMMENTS ON DEMISE OF PROCESS

PY300107 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2048 GMT 23 Jun 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jun (DYN)--Former navy commander in chief, Adm Emilio Massera, termed "lamentable the schism in the unity of the armed forces," and reaffirmed that the process of national reorganization "has been defunct for a long time."

The former member of the military junta and current leader of the movement for social democracy talked today about the new institutional stage and noted that the disagreements between the armed forces "were the result of the army's inflexible desire to impose its choice for president of the nation." Massera said that "the disagreement with the positions of the navy and the air force"--positions whose motives and principles he described as correct--"prompts the distortion of the nation's supreme interests at times fraught with moral, social and political difficulties, worsened by the stark reality of a military conflict lost within the framework of a global conflict, which demands a proud acceptance of emerging responsibilities and the exercise of unity and honesty."

Massera finally said that "the announced regularization of institutions by transferring power to be effected no later than the first months of 1984 is very positive," because in his belief power will be transferred to authorities freely chosen by the people amid clear-cut and honorable rules of the game without tricks or illegitimate hopes for legacies or transferred rights to remain in power."

CSO: 3010/1787

COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

UNION LEADERS COMMENT ON NEW ECONOMIC PLAN

PY080210 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1745 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 6 Jul (DYN)--Union leaders regard as positive those measures concerning industrial reactivation announced by Minister Jose Dagnino Pastore, but express their concern over the possibility that the program now put into motion could entail further sacrifices for the workers.

The above was stated in a survey conducted among representatives of the two CGT [General Labor Confederation] organizations, CGT-Brasil and CGT-Azopardo, and of the "nonaligned group" of unions.

Horacio Alonso (court workers), member of the CGT-Brasil executive board, said: "We believe major changes have been made in the economic policy which has been followed up to now."

Alonso added: "It is proper to note that the minister has severely criticized the policy followed by the various administrations of the process since March 1976." He added: "As for the implementation of the program, we will have to wait and see its results." He noted, however, that "the plan should meet legitimate social needs through a policy of equitable distribution which will ultimately promote industrial recovery."

Enrique Venturini (naval electricians) said that Dagnino Pastore was "very sincere and frankly outlined the depth of the economic crisis the country has been experiencing."

Drawing conclusions from the minister's speech, Venturini said that "there will be inflation" and added that "the union movement will have to further tighten its belt, according to the minister's expressions."

He added that "the above will happen because all these measures are simply designed to shift the burden of the crisis caused by others onto the people, especially the workers, who will have to again sustain a great sacrifice without having the assurance that these measures will be later translated into measures which could make their real salary truly grow."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

CULTURE MINISTER CLOSES UNEAC CONGRESS

PA121350 Havana PRELA in English 2015 GMT 11 Jul 82

[Text] Havana, Jul (PL)--Minister of Culture Armando Hart called for combining individual talent with the creativity of the people to place the stress that is required by culture and the qualitative leap to which Cuba aspires.

The member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba in his closing speech to the Third Congress of the Union of Artists and Writers [UNEAC] outlined the aspirations of the Cuban revolution in the cultural sphere.

The closing was presided over, together with Hart, by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Jesus Montane and Antonio Perez Herrera, members and alternative members of the Political Bureau Nicolas Guillen and Dominican writer and political figure Juan Bosch.

Hart evaluated the situation of the world in the first place due to the capitalist economic crisis that affects all the countries, especially the underdeveloped including Cuba, and the threat of a new world military conflict as a result of the arms buildup, aggressive policy of the United States.

If it is not stopped that course could lead to a new world conflagration warned Hart who pointed out that arms have already begun to speak their language of terror.

In this regard he said that culture and writers have their message of alert to move world public opinion and lead it to confront the danger of war.

Later on in his remarks he called on the intellectuals to identify increasingly with the popular movement generated in Cuba around culture.

Anything that creates artificial divisions between the people and the artistic movement will in turn create barriers to the development of the cultural policy of the revolution, he said.

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Hart added that there must be promotion of a very broad popular movement around culture in such a way as to encourage rigor and aesthetic demands and the broadest creative freedom of the masses and the intellectuals.

Everything that answers to that, he stated, will have our support and all that hinders it will meet with our opposition.

Only the unity of those two sources, individual talent and the creativity of the people will break the historic barrier built up around "serious" and "popular" art. In our society, he asserted, all art must be both serious and popular.

By way of example of that synthesis between the popular and the polished creation of individual talent, he cited national poet Nicolas Guillen whose work meets the highest aesthetic demand and also has profound popular roots.

He stressed that in Cuba today the problems of art are not conditioned by the demands of a minority but by the huge cultural-educational revolution in the country that demands an increase in quality that will reach all layers.

He cited by way of example the 200,000 young university students and 9,000 university professors who represent a mass phenomenon in culture that demands greater rigor.

He said that attention must be given to radio and TV due to their decisive influence on people's taste and called for joint efforts by the UNEAC, the Ministry of Culture and those media to find and apply methods to meet that need.

He praised the graduating classes of the art schools and said that the highest quality cadre are needed in culture.

He mentioned an agreement signed with different universities for the creation of schools of arts and letters whose graduates will be able to work in the different fields of culture in keeping with their vocation and the needs of the country.

He spoke of the young creators and proposed the strengthening of the spirit of cooperation between experienced artists and writers and their younger colleagues.

There can hardly be imagined anything more alien to the individualism of capitalist competition than that spirit of cooperation between our successful, recognized creators and their colleagues of the young generation, he declared.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

'PRELA' REPORTS ON INTERVIEW WITH RODRIGUEZ

PA041300 Havana PRELA in Portuguese 1230 GMT 3 Jul 82

[Text] [No dateline as received] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of States and Ministers of Cuba, has said that the USSR is the most important foreign factor in Cuba's economic development.

The results of the [words indistinct] Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Rodriguez told PRELA in an interview, again prove Soviet solidarity with Cuba.

He said that all important aspects of Cuba's development were discussed. Not only are our trade relations with the USSR the most important and decisive, he said, but there is also much Soviet participation in basic development programs of the Cuban economy.

During the meetings [words indistinct] USSR cooperation had been discussed, Rodriguez added, especially the two great textile mills that will be opened, one this year and the other in July 1983.

The first mill will fill Cuba's textile needs, while the second which will be built in Santiago, will be one of the largest in the world. It will have a productive capacity of 80 million square meters of material.

Another important project is the Punta Gorda Nickel Plant. This gigantic enterprise will be the biggest construction project in the country's history.

Rodriguez said that Cuba's energy problems were also discussed at the meetings. He mentioned the new units to be built in the country's eastern sector and in [words indistinct] the Havana thermoelectric plant with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts. When the Cienfuegos Nuclear-Electric Plant starts operations, Cuba will have duplicated its present electric energy production, according to Rodriguez. He stressed that the search for sources of energy was discussed at the meetings.

Cuba has been systematically exploring for oil with USSR aid since the first years of the revolutionary process. Small-scale production has been achieved, but with greater technical facilities and experience, in the next few years

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Cuba can depend on the help of the ministry of [words indistinct] to exploit the maritime shelf.

Regarding transportation, Rodriguez pointed out that both parties will adopt the necessary measures to improve further the organization of loading and unloading operations, which is a matter of great importance to Cuba.

Referring to Cuba's main economic problems, the Cuban leader said that 1982, 1983, and 1984, will be very difficult years for two reasons: the low prices of sugar and the spiralling cost of foodstuffs and manufactured goods. He said that this would cause us to review our plans and to use our foreign currency reserves very carefully.

He declared that our relations with the socialist world, especially the USSR, will insure that Cuba's development will not be stopped. Our development will continue [words indistinct] people's welfare. Our development will mean more factories to produce staples and to make use of our natural resources.

He denounced the systematic economic aggression that the United States is waging against Cuba. This aggression has increased to such an extent that it is now more intense than the struggle in the political-military field.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that one of the forms of aggression used by the United States is its campaign against sales of Cuban nickel. The United States has systematically been waging an aggressive policy. It has made agreements with several purchasers in Europe and is trying to do the same in Asia.

He added that the United States has tried to prevent important loans from being made to Cuba, and has tried to have banks from capitalist countries withdraw their deposits from Cuban banks.

This economic aggression will hinder the economic plans laid by the Second Congress of the Cuban Communist Party. However, it is believed that several solutions will be found.

The Cuban vice president stressed the importance of Cuba's participation in CEMA, which it joined 10 years ago.

He said that Cuba, Vietnam, and Mongolia are examples for developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. These countries should understand that the future will not be based on unequal relations with capitalist imperialist countries, but on new relations to be established with members of the socialist community.

He explained that CEMA countries are at present engaged in studying new forms of joint multilateral cooperation with developing countries.

He believes that in 1983 important initiatives will be concluded to improve CEMA's participation in the development of Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Cuba, as a developing country [words indistinct] a valuable experience, Rodriguez added.

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COUNTRY SECTION

EL SALVADOR

FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING PART OF U.S. 'PLAN'

PA072254 Havana PRELA in English 2030 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] San Jose, 8 Jul (PL)--The foreign ministers of four Central American countries met here once again to formally set up the self-styled democratic community of the area while Nicaragua charged it is a plan to destabilize it.

On hand for the meeting in San Salvador were the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Fernando Volio Jimenez, Honduras, Edgardo Paz Barnica, Guatemala, Eduardo Castillo and El Salvador, Fidel Chavez Mena.

It was announced officially that the meeting formally set up the new political military pact after it was announced in January in the Costa Rican capital.

The reactionary bent of the grouping which political experts say is designed to replace the defunct Central American Defense Council (CONDECA) was denounced by Nicaragua as an attempt to surround the Sandinista revolution.

CONDECA was a military cooperation pact organized by reactionary regimes in the area with Washington approval, under the inspiration of the Somoza regime. Its foundations reached a crisis after the overthrow of that regime in July 1979.

The initiative to create a similar body was adopted in January by the governments of Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador in view of the mounting advance of the guerrilla movement in the latter country and the grave military-political tensions caused by the United States in the region.

Initially Guatemala was not invited to join because in the view of the organizers, the regime of the time headed by Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia [words indistinct].

Sergio Ramirez of the Nicaraguan Government junta recalled that Nicaragua and Panama were not invited to the meeting and charged that the "democratic community" was conceived by the United States as part of a plan to surround the Nicaraguan revolution.

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COUNTRY SECTION

PERU

BRIEFS

BORDER INCIDENT WITH ECUADOR--Lima, 5 Jun (SAPORITI)--A recent border incident with Ecuador was virtually admitted by Prime Minister Ulloa, when a newsman inquired about a rumor on the matter. The prime minister said, however, that he was certain that it was one of those events that are often difficult to verify because of the imprecise border line in some areas, to which is added the bad weather, which can lead to raids without any importance, precisely because there is no ill intention. The minister added that there is no reason to suppose that at present there should be any motives for alleged tensions between Ecuador and Peru. I am sure that anything that may have happened is the result of some fortuitous circumstance. To a question by a newsman whether Great Britain would artificially be promoting a border conflict between Peru and Ecuador, Prime Minister Ulloa replied by asserting that there is no information that can even make us think that it may have been a border incident which may have major consequences because of being originated from abroad. [Text] [PY052245 Buenos Aires SAPORITI in Spanish 1736 GMT 5 Jun 82]

CSO: 3010/1771

COUNTRY SECTION

SURINAME

BOUTERSE CITES ACHIEVEMENTS ON LIFTING CURFEW

PA030100 Havana PRELA in English 2310 GMT 2 Jul 82

[Text] Paramaribo, 3 Jul (PL)--Commander Daysi Bouterse, leader of the Suriname political process, said the revolution is a historic necessity and a greater challenge for the people.

He recalled that the government has adopted several measures to benefit the people since young army officers took power on 25 February 1980.

He cited among the gains farm policy, price control, a lowcost housing program and a tax cut.

He also stressed that the well-being of the masses has been the central objective of all the steps taken.

At a ceremony to mark the abolition of slavery in Suriname, Bouterse also announced the lifting of the curfew in force since March when a counter-revolutionary group tried to pull a coup.

The throng gathered at the former Fort Bomika, where Bouterse and his comrades met 28 months ago on the eve of the overthrow of the regime of Henck Arron, hailed the measure and cheered the revolution.

Bouterse also spoke of the economic problems that continue to affect the country, which attained its independence from Holland in 1975, and stated that they are due to the inherited economic and political structure.

Everyone has the right and duty to develop on the basis of their own effort. Therefore the revolution is not an elegant word, but a historic need and, at the same time, a greater challenge for the Suriname people.

In his speech, he harshly scored colonialism and imperialism and called on the people to promote their own forms of development, learning from other Third World countries.

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END